

SACRED DANCE GUILD JOURNAL

www.sacreddanceguild.org

SPRING 2004

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 3

Merle Wade, Chapters and Regions Director, attends the Louisiana Region Mini-Festival 2004

Congratulations! The Louisiana Region, under the direction of Betty Woody, scored a touch-down with the first Sacred Dance Guild Mini-Festival 2004, held in Baton Rouge during the weekend of March 12 through March 14. The Mini-Festival was top-notch and without mincing any words, the efforts of Betty, her co-chair, Anne Marks, the Mini-Festival Committee and the Alleluia Dance Ensemble are to be highly commended. No detail was left undone. Every moment of the 3-day mini-festival was expertly structured and well organized. We were all nutritiously fed with an abundance of heartfelt spirit, exciting sacred dance and divine love.

The mini-festival's theme, "Moving Closer to God-Sacred Dance as Prayer," permeated the entire festivities and led more than 100 participants into a comfortable place in which to fellowship and dance. The atmosphere evoked peaceful, loving feelings and created an experience of sacredness. It was, in fact, a retreat which restored and renewed.

Kara Miller, former artistic director of Omega Dance Company, Episcopal Cathedral, St. John the Divine in New York City, was the guest presenter and blessed not only Sacred Dance Guild members from as far away as Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but also local dancers from the Louisiana community. Other faculty included:

- Lynne Clearfield - MFA, MED, instructor in Gabrielle Roth's "Sweat Your Prayers," ULL dance faculty member
- Victoria Polchow - director of dance ministries at Christ Episcopal Church, Covington, Louisiana
- Marie Plauche-Guston - director of Bere Sheet Ballet, Houston, Texas
- Anne Marks and Betty Woody - founders and directors of Alleluia Dance Ensemble, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Merle Wade and the Shekinah Praise Dance Ministry, Summit, New Jersey

Two well attended concerts, inspired dancers and audience alike to open the windows of their hearts and

receive the magnificent creativity of God. On behalf of the Sacred Dance Guild Executive Board, thank you Louisiana, for a job superbly done!

The executive board and the entire membership look forward to participating with other mini-festivals planned for the following dates:

- National Canadian Chapter
4/23 - 4/24
- Alabama Region 4/30 - 5/2
- Lakeshore Chapter
6/25 - 6/27
- Constitution/Potomac
Chapters 7/16 - 7/18
- Rocky Mountain Chapter
7/21 - 7/22
- Northern California Chapter
10/22 - 10/24
- Northern New Jersey Region
11/5 - 11/7



Workshop participants at the Baton Rouge "Moving Closer to God - Sacred Dance as Prayer" weekend.

- Charlotte Fitzsimons - director of dance ministries at Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Words from two of our sacred dance mothers:

"The dance of the future will have to become again a high religious art as it was with the Greeks. For art which is not religious is not art, mere merchandise."-Isadora Duncan

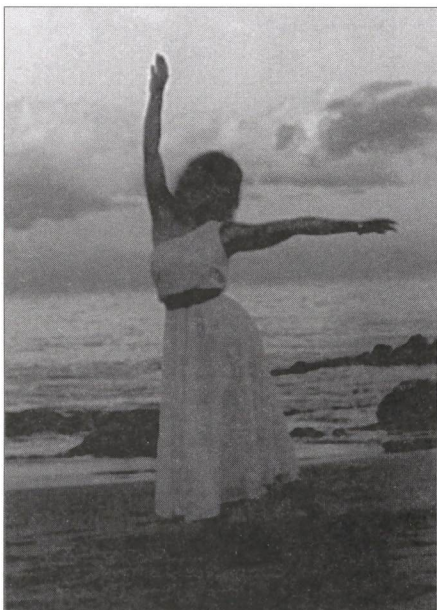
"I call for a new, vital expression that will bring humanity into a closer, more harmonious relationship with the One who created our bodies as well as our souls. I see maturity reborn in grace and strength, and the joyous footsteps of the children dancing down the chancels of the world, bringing to the shrine of God the offerings of praise!"-Ruth St. Denis

Recently I was involved in a discussion of the meaning of the word "sacred." We were all theologically trained professionals in the field of connecting the divine and human, and we were all of various religious and denominational persuasions. The one thing everyone agreed upon is that the world has constructed artificial boundaries between the sacred and the secular, and that once a person buys into those separations, a portion of the divine is lost. Archaeologists and anthropologists tell us that if we move back before recorded history, these two words would not even exist, because there would be no such understanding of a separation between the two.

In these days when people consider themselves to be enlightened, educated, global, inclusive, etc., I find it baffling that dance in sacred settings can still raise eyebrows and elicit head shaking and murmuring. I want to thank all of you

Sacred Dance Guild members for your pioneering efforts. And yes, we are still pioneers in the field. Thankfully the land is being settled somewhat. Some of us can now talk openly about "dance choirs" rather than "movement choirs." Some of us can use dance vocabularies with choreographic combinations and steps beyond ethereal ballet. Some of us are eagerly embraced by our congregations. Some of us are wearing what would have been unthinkable some years ago. And some of us are still struggling with permission to broach such a concept with our faith communities.

There is much yet to be done. While there remains a schism between the realm of secular and sacred, until all dance (and the arts) become sacred, until dance becomes mature in grace and strength in honor of the One who created bodies, until all the children of the world are dancing praises in the shrines of God, we have our leg and body work cut out for us. I am ever grateful for the Sacred Dance Guild which embraces sacred dance in all its forms and expressions, and which takes an active role in encouraging and supporting dancers. And I am grateful for each of you as you move the world a bit closer to understanding the holy importance of dancing these divinely constructed bodies. Whenever I see sunlight dancing across the water (and I am fortunate enough to often see it from my studio window), I know that God has established a covenant with all who join in the dance.



In Memory of Starfire

Starfire, a member of the Hawaii Chapter, and a SDG lifetime member since 1971, joined the celestial dancers on Monday, March 15, 2004. After a long battle with cancer, she died in her sleep, cuddled up next to her husband Robert LoVell. A recent gift to the Guild was her leading of the worship services at Festival '01 in Hawaii.



Executive Board

President: Karen Josephson
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Corresponding Secretary: Lucy Knopf
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Journal Editor: Toni' Intravaia

Board-at-Large

Archivist: Mary Jane Wolbers

Directors-at-Large

2001-2004: Ann Blessin, Dana R. Schlegel
2002-2005: Kathleen LaCamera, Tamara Mingo
2003-2006: Yvonne Ng, Vivian Tai

The JOURNAL is the official publication of the Sacred Dance Guild, a non-profit international corporation, founded in 1958, and providing members with information and opportunities for enriching their faith through movement and dance. Reprints of articles in the JOURNAL are by permission of the Editor only. The Directory is intended only for the use of Guild members in carrying out the activities and purposes of the Guild.

Policy Statement The Sacred Dance Guild recommends and encourages its members to list their SDG affiliation when presenting workshops and performances. However, the Guild letterhead, logo and name are to be used only in connection with official Guild business and activities, as endorsed by a Chapter Board, Regional Director or Guild Executive Board. Official address: Sacred Dance Guild, Post Office Box 187, Temple, NH 03084. Headquarters' address: Karen Josephson, 305 Townsend Avenue, New Haven, CT 06512. Editor's Address: Toni' Intravaia, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901. © Sacred Dance Guild, Inc. All rights reserved. ISSN 1043-5328. Sacred Dance Guild Web Site: www.sacreddanceguild.org

Corporate subscriptions to the JOURNAL are available for \$35. Membership to the Sacred Dance Guild is also available for the following rates: One-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$35.00; Two-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$62.00; One-Year Student and Senior (65+) Membership \$25.00; One-Year Group Membership \$82.00 and Life Membership \$1000.00. For Non-Members, the JOURNAL is \$24.00 per year. Members receive:

- Sacred Dance Guild Journal published three times a year
- Membership Directory with geographical and leadership listings printed annually
- Calendar of Events published in the Journal and online with regional, national, and international activities
- Membership in Chapter or Region with local events and activities
- Reduced fees at the International Festival held annually in different locations within the United States
- Reduced fees at Guild workshops and those of reciprocal organizations
- Reduced cost for all Guild publications
- Opportunity to be listed as a resource in the Online Resource Database
- Opportunity to create your own website to be linked to the SDG website
- Ability to sign up for email reminders for events listed on SDG Event Calendars
- Opportunity to be part of the All Members e-list where sacred dance issues, concerns, and ideas are shared among members from all over the world.

Send subscription or membership order to SDG Membership Director Connie Tyler, 2322 Eighth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710.

Deadlines for the JOURNAL: August 15, November 15 and March 15. Deadlines for the Events Calendar are the same as for the Journal. Articles of 500 words or less, dance activity, Chapter/Region/membership news, and letters can be sent to journal@sdg.org or to Toni' Intravaia. Original black and white/color photographs should be sent by deadline dates to: Sacred Dance Guild Journal, Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901.

EDITORIAL

Toni' writes: Thanks to the SDG members, Fran Becque, Karen Josephson and Mark Moloney there is a Spring issue of the *Journal*.

"Dance as Transformation" is the theme for the fall issue. Also, dear readers, do send me news of our youth in sacred dance.

Articles can now be sent to journal@sdg.org or to Toni' Intravaia. Please continue to send your news, as well as dates for the Calendar of Events, to Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901, and send your news from chapters and regions to Director of Chapters and Regions, P. Merle Wade, 611 Plainfield Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060-2118. The deadlines are August 15, November 15 and March 15.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*From Angela Nicolosi, President,
SDG OH-Penn Chapter*

The OH-Penn Chapter of the SDG had our mini-festival March 26-7 at Villa Maria Retreat Center in western Pennsylvania. Participants hailed from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

It is not appropriate for me to talk of the quality of the festival as I was the presenter, but by all verbal reports, those present enjoyed the yoga, swimming, and singing that helped us prepare to learn a sacred dance piece. I presented "My Help is in the Mountain," a poem written by Nancy Wood and choreographed by Diane Eno, based on American Indian Sign Language. Diane was a presenter at the 2002 Festival and her work is heavily influenced by the culture and traditions of her American Indian roots. She has greatly influenced my choreography and I wanted others to be exposed to the beauty of the language.

To end of our time together we continued the SDG tradition of sharing our dances. Sr. Barbara Eppich, Erin Raines, Ellie King assisted by Carla Kramer, and myself all presented pieces. I was moved by the pieces shared, the lovely spirits of those in attendance, and deeply honored to have the chance to lead the mini-festival.

**Donations to our
annual appeal are still
being accepted.
The Bookkeeper says
we are seriously
in the red and
could use your loving,
dancing dollars.**

Notes from SDG President, Karen Josephson

There may be something about this issue that just doesn't "seem right." And there is. Toni' Intravaia, the *Journal* Editor since 1972, literally had surgery on a broken neck on March 15, the deadline for the spring issue, and shortly after the 2004 Directory was ready to be picked up at the printers.

The day before her surgery, when I called her to convey Guild wishes for a successful surgery and a speedy recovery, her first words were, "We'll get this issue out on time." The amazing Toni never stops, and this *Journal* could hardly be considered late. Many thanks to all who rallied around to compile this issue. Toni is at home recovering, in a "halo" and doing amazingly well. Special thanks to Fran Becque, her husband Dan, and Toni's son Paul.

Apologies to all who submitted articles or information for this *Journal* that did not get included. Please check the website for more information about SDG, its members and its activities.

Condolences to Joceile Nordwall, former President of the Potomac Chapter, who recently lost both of her parents in a home fire.

SDG lifetime member Helen Sonderby died in February at the age of 96.

American Choreographers Stamp Issued by USPS

On May 1, 2004, the United States Postal Service is issuing a 37¢ stamp honoring four choreographers. The pane of 20 stamps honors George Balanchine, Martha Graham, Agnes de Mille and Alvin Ailey.

**Applications to be hired
for Festival '05 are
available at
sacreddanceguild.org
(See Festivals, and Festival
'05) or from Peggy Arthur,
10 Elinor Place, Branford,
CT 06405. Deadline for
submission is
May 1, 2004.**

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Journal Contributors:

Toni' Intravaia, Editor;

Mark Moloney, Editorial Staff

Rev. Gay Godfrey,
Joann Flanigan,
Margaret Taylor Doane

Typesetting/Design: Frances Becque

FROM SACRED DANCE GUILD MEMBERS

In Step with the Spirit

By Rev. Gay Godfrey, Portions of a sermon delivered on November 2, 2003 for the 50th Anniversary of Sacred Dance at Hancock UCC, Lexington, Massachusetts

On this Reformation Sunday, which many churches call "All Saint's," we are celebrating specific examples of a few saints who led us into adventure with vision.

Half a century ago, Helen Borngesser, Jary Yoos, Sybille Volz and a number of others heard tell of the Ruth St. Denis and the Sacred Dance Guild. They knew that the Hancock community's faithfulness, gentleness and patience, made it just the place to step into such an engaging and novel expression of worship.

As you can imagine, there were some, back in 1953, who had real trouble with this contemporary addition to worship. It seemed too physical for church; too much art and not enough word; and certainly not part of the puritan tradition. Churches have always been challenged to adapt on faithful ways to new artistic forms. In the 17th century, Isaac Watts wrote today's first hymn. A controversy arose about the singing of Psalms and the singing of hymns. Hymns were a contemporary addition to worship. For many, hymns seemed too much art and not enough word, too human focused for church. The church compromised, deciding to sing Psalms at the beginning of the service and then after the preaching, to sing hymns. Many people who were still against the hymns would get up and leave the service after the sermon. To challenge this practice, Watts wrote the hymn, "We're Marching to Zion." But de-

spite its strangeness, Hancock folk in a spirit of kindness and peace, welcomed our dancers.

Our celebration today bears witness to Hancock's tradition of integrating contemporary artistic expressions into worship. Today is a time to claim our success at adapting to cultural change.

There are some today for whom dance still seems an innovation in worship. Though we celebrate the Word becoming flesh, modern Christians tend to emphasize verbal rather than physical expressions of faith and worship. But the Hebrews did not denigrate the body to exalt the spirit as did the Greeks later. For ancient Israel, dancing before God was an experience of both revelation and response; an intense and vital expression of love, praise, thanksgiving, mystery, fear and even anger familiar to us in the memory of Miriam, and David.

We know that in the Western early medieval church lay people and clergy caroled - or danced, together - with a kind of slow ring or line dance where people would take three steps forward and one step back - to signify "I go forward and yet I falter." As a direct result of the movement into basilica's, clergy separated themselves from the dance with the laity and then banned it altogether as they reserved to themselves the sacred processions and gestures. Through the last several centuries, the

congregation's dance of worship has been reduced to bowing heads, folding hands and standing as the money is brought forward.

Most of us at Hancock are well and truly versed in the gifts of reason and the limits of the rational mind. Dance is a total act of worship and prayer which moves us beyond those limits. It becomes an invitation, to and through our dancers, to respond to God with our whole being. Over the years, people like Ruth Ladd, Carl Chmela, Martha Wyman, Beth Ann Ray, Meg Stone, and, of course, Patricia Collins, and (those) who served on her search committee have helped our dance choirs shape movements into patterns, symbols and images which assist all of us to integrate expression (with the body), interpretation (with the mind) and reflection (of the spirit within).

Our celebration today affirms Hancock's commitment to grow continually in relationship to God. We claim our success in bringing life and form to the joys, visions and struggles of a searching heart.

Our past is full of daring dancers. Do you remember the "boys who kick"? The Good Friday troupe is unique, possibly in leading the entire congregation in a service of *Tenebrae*. They gave us stars to follow at Christmas. With Anita and the voice choirs, they have taught us Bible stories. Through their art they demonstrate joy and patience, self-control and faithfulness.



Ruth Lieberherr, Miriam Gephardt, Rev. Gay Godfrey, Sybille Volz, Pamela Landi at the November 2, 2003 service, Hancock United Church of Christ. Not pictured are Elaine Sisler and Shirley Blancke.



Toni Intravaia dancing in 1972
and at work as SDG editor.

Two pictures of Toni' Intravaia from the back cover of her book, *And We Have Danced: A History of the Sacred Dance Guild 1972-1992*.

Our Editor and a Former Editor

Sharing the joys and frustrations of being our Sacred Dance Guild JOURNAL editor for many years has brought a closeness of friendship between our present editor, Toni' Intravaia and former editor Margaret Taylor Doane.

As some of you may recall, Margaret was our JOURNAL editor from 1962-1967. Judith Bennett (NY) and Virginia Lucke (MI) followed Margaret, and then Toni' took on this challenging position in 1972. Toni' has continued as our editor for more than 30 years. She is our central heartbeat, and all of us thank her for her many years of editorial excellence along with her vision of sacred dance.

Joann Flanigan and Margaret Taylor Doane

More Information on Mini-Festivals

The Sacred Dance Guild is dedicated to dance as spiritual expression for:

- * Enrichment of personal devotion and prayer.
- * Connectedness within the community at worship.
- * Acceptance and Expansion of relationships with God and others.
- * Disciplined Growth of the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.
- * Creative Discoveries within the art form and in its relevance to the other arts in religion.
- * Religious Education for increased interfaith understanding.

The Mini-Festivals are a reflection of this. It is hoped that Sacred Dance Guild members will be able to attend one or more of the Mini-Festivals.

Alabama Region Mini-Festival

April 30 - May 2, 2004

**University of Montevallo
Montevallo, Alabama**

Registration will begin on Friday, April 30th, for this Mini Festival. The Alabama Region of the Sacred Dance Guild is co-sponsored with the University of Montevallo.

Welcome and Community Dancing on Friday night

Saturday workshops, Sharing, and an Evening Concert

Sunday morning worship service

More information will be forthcoming by Joann Flanigan (Joannsdg@comcast.net), and by our Alabama Regional Director Deborah Mauldin who is Professor of Dance at the University of Montevallo.

Lakeshore Mini-Festival

Dancing the Light

June 25 - 27, 2004

**St. Mary's College
Notre Dame, Indiana**

Come join us in America's heartland to dance, praise, and celebrate. Gather with a diverse network of sacred dancers and advocates and help spark the recognition and renaissance of dance as a universal language of spirituality and celebration.

Friday night: sharing of our dances and discussion; Saturday morning and afternoon: workshops on stepping, praise dance, leading dance choirs, encouraging congregational movement, and non-literal interpretation of songs; Saturday night: participatory interfaith danced prayer service.

Early registration by April 15: \$75 for Sacred Dance Guild members and \$95 for nonmembers includes conference and

meals. Friday and Saturday night single rooms, \$25 per night. For more information contact Deena Sherman at 630-892-1988 or deenabess@yahoo.com

Mid-Atlantic Sacred Dance Guild Mini-Festival

July 16 to July 18, 2004

**Episcopal High School
Alexandria, Virginia**

Mid-Atlantic Sacred Dance Guild Festival 2004 "LET'S DANCE!!!!"

Come share a long weekend of dance workshops and sharing with the members of the Potomac and Constitution Chapters of the Sacred Dance Guild! We'll be offering a variety of morning and afternoon classes, group discussions on a variety of sacred dance related subjects, and a showcase of dancers in a Saturday night concert! Stay one or both nights, or drop in any time you're free and interested. The public is welcome! Bring friends, pastors, and anyone even remotely interested! Give us a try! Room and board will be available.

Get joyous! LET'S DANCE!!!

For more information contact AnneMarie Pittman at annmariep@comcast.net.

Northern California Sacred Dance Guild Mini-Festival

October 22-24, 2004

**Pacific School of Religion
Berkeley, California**

Our mini-festival will be held at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, right across the Bay from San Francisco. We hope to have many different presenters during the three days, including Carla DeSola, Susan Olsen, and Yehudit Steinberg. We are planning classes on liturgical dance, Jewish ecstatic dance, Interplay, at least one class from a nonwestern tradition and classes for youth and children. There will be a concert on Saturday night and an interfaith worship service late Sunday afternoon. We will allow time for participants to share the dances they bring with them.

For the most up-to-date

Mini-Festival information,

visit the SDG website at

www.sacreddanceguild.org



Plans for Festival 2005 are Humming Along

The plans for Festival 2005 - *Dancing Our Roots...Stretching New Branches* - continue to hum along! We have had several lovely submissions for a logo. With difficulty, as they were all wonderful, one has been chosen. Tobey Hartman's image is the one we will have as our logo. We congratulate Tobey and send thanks to the others for sharing their talents with us.

Betsy O'Neill and Lucy Knopf have been busy contacting people about faculty positions and they have been receiving faculty/presenter applications. Thanks to Connie Tyler the SDG website for Festival

2005 has our theme and a presenter form that can be downloaded. Lucy has been researching The American Dance Festival which was held at Connecticut College from 1946 until 1976. Lucy is hoping to have a panel at the festival from Connecticut College and the American Dance Festival to talk about their shared history.

The Festival 2005 team will gather at Connecticut College on March 27, 2004 to tour the facilities and to further plan and imagine the festival. The members of the team are:

- Lucy Knopf and Betsy O'Neill, Faculty Coordinators
- Lucy VanAtta, Publicity committee
- Shirley Blancke, Registration
- Joyce Smillie and Shirley Blancke, Treasurers
- Dancers of Skyloom and Karen Josephson, Worship

Please continue to contact us with your ideas and ways that you can use your abilities in this creative endeavor!

For more information, contact Peggy Arthur, Festival 2005 Coordinator, 10 Elinor Place, Branford, CT 06405, 203-483-1201,

Sacred Dance Guild Executive and Board-At-Large Ballot 2004

This ballot includes a slate of Officers, Directors and Regional Directors, whose acceptance or rejection will be determined by counted ballots at the annual SDG Meeting at Potomac and Constitution's Mini-Festival at Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA, July 16-18, 2004. Committees and unfilled board positions are determined by presidential appointment or by write-ins according to Sacred Dance Guild By-laws. Your voting and write-in suggestions are important to the Guild. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in Virginia, please send in the following ballot with your vote, your name and address. Ballots will also be collected at the Annual Meeting if you attend and do not mail in your ballot. Only dues-paying members in good standing are allowed to vote. Please postmark by June 30.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Ellen Roberts Young, PA
SDG member since 1978; founding member, frequent officer and occasional workshop leader of Constitution Chapter; SDG Membership Director 1984-86; Dances at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA; Ph.D. in American Religion from Temple University; poet, researcher, and copyeditor.

VICE PRESIDENT: Stella Shizuka Matsuda, CA
Started dancing at 9, went to UCLA, BA in Dance, MA in Ed., Cal Lutheran U. Taught dance at both and then became Director of Dance at Moorpark College for over 20 years. Danced with Gloria Newman Dance theatre and was founding director of Alleluia Dance Theater and continues now as exec. dir. SDG for 25 years. So CA Board; chair of the 2003 SDG Festival held in CA. Married, 3 children, 6 grandchildren.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Annmarie Pittman, VA
Performs with Potomac Sacred Dancers, Mt. Vernon Methodist Church Dance Choir and as a soloist. Potomac Chapter treasurer. Served on Board of Los Angeles Ballet; was Pres. Board of Dir.'s Arlington Dance Theatre; past Chair. City of Alex. Arts Comm., Ms. Virginia Senior America in 1998, now VA Pageant Dir. and contestant coordinator for National Pageant.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Lucy Knopf, NY
Dance performer - administrator with *Moving Earth and Omega Dance Companies*; appeared in Kara Esposito's "Illuminations" in churches and St. Ignatius Retreat Center, Liturgical Ministry in St. Ignatius. Ballroom dancer Tango specialist, studied in Buenos Aires and Cuba at Tango/Salsa Cultural Exchange. Graduate New York University. Employed Research at Teachers' College and League for Nursing.

TREASURER: Jolyn Walker, CT
Praise/African Dancer/Choreographer/Instructor. Choate Rosemary Hall Liturgical Dance Team Dir. and African dance teacher. First Baptist Church-Praise Dance Ministry Leader, conducts Praise dance workshops for young people and young adults and a Women's workshop. Studied at Yale Univ. Cultural Center, participant - Avodah's Summer program and traveled to Ghana to study and teach.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Connie Tyler, CA
Editor of Northern California SDG Newsletter; Webmaster of Spirit Creations website; member of *Random Dance*. MA/MDiv from the Pacific School of Religion, teaches piano and composes choral music. Mother of Bridget and various cats and dogs and loves to sing and dance.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Karen Josephson, CT
SDG member since '83, past SDG President ('00-'04). CT Regional Director '89-94, Festival '96 Director, Festival Faculty '87, '96, '98, '00. Ph.D. in Religion and the Arts from Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. Dancer, storyteller, sign language artist, worship specialist, educator, actor and director.

CHAPTER AND REGIONS DIRECTOR:

P. Merle Wade, NJ
SDG member 25 years; past member of *Simple Gifts* liturgical dance group; currently advisor and choreographer of *Shekinah Praise Dance Ministry*; sign language interpreter; signs music concerts throughout NJ; has 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren; loves to knit and cook.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:

Wendy Morrell, CAN
Sacred dancer since the moment of conception! Member SDG since 1994; Director of children's and adults' dance choirs at Bells Corners United Church; co-choreographer of Festival '00 at Ottawa; sacred dance and labyrinth facilitator. Independent management consultant with the government of Canada!

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:

Kat Pettycrew, NJ
Administrator and board member of Mustard Seed Dance Co., Inc., an intergenerational interdenominational dance group based in Southern NJ; member and newsletter editor of the Constitution Chapter. SDG Director-at-Large and member of Public Relations Commission and Vice-President '03-'04.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:

Kathryn Mihelick, OH:
Leaven Dance Company, workshop residencies in Buffalo and Pennsylvania; performed in Akron's regional celebrations of the annual Week Without Violence Observance and the initial Globalization Conference sponsored by a regional consortium of agencies. Danced at the Millennium Jubilee Year closing for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland at Cleveland Public Auditorium.

JOURNAL EDITOR: Toni' Intravaia, IL
SDG member since 1958; SDG Journal Editor since 1972; Labanotator, educator, choreographer; author *And We Have Danced, Vol. 2*; co-author *On the Count of One*; visiting instructor, So.IL.U.; Nat'l Music Camp, W VA U, CT. College; Director, Carbondale Children's Dance Theater; DMA Dance.

BOARD-AT-LARGE

ARCHIVIST: Mary Jane Wolbers, NH
Has served on many committees and offices including Program Director, DAL., Festival Committee Chair, President, Parliamentarian. She is

a dancer, choreographer, choir director, educator, and an advocate of creativity, increased youth involvement and multi-culturalism in sacred dance.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS - 2004-2005

(Please note that some states and areas are represented by Chapters, chartered within the Guild, which vote on their own officers.)

ALABAMA: Deborah Mauldin Halloway
MS in dance, Madison U; director of dance at U of Montevallo; trained in modern, classical ballet, ballroom, butoh, jazz, liturgical dance, choreography. President of dance division of ASPAPRD; Secretary & past President of Alabama Dance Council.

ALASKA: write-in

ARIZONA: Kenda Newbury-O'Brien
A professional choreographer, performer and dance instructor. Artistic Director of Arizona Liturgical Dance Group, professional dance company which produces sacred dance works. M.F.A. Boston Conservatory; teacher of dance at Boston Ballet Center for Dance Education, Boston College, Phoenix School of Ballet and Paradise Valley Comm. College.

ARKANSAS: (See Mississippi)

CONNECTICUT: (See Massachusetts)

FLORIDA: Carolyn Greene
Director/choreographer *Sondance*, 1st Methodist Ormond Beach; workshop leader throughout the country; active SDG promoter involved in starting dance programs in other churches; known for "worshipful and spiritual interpretations."

GEORGIA: Annette Tomasi
Teaching certificate - Hartford Ballet in the Vaganova Ballet syllabus and modern techniques of Limon and Cunningham. Choreographer and performer of ballet, tap, jazz and modern. Instructor of dance for more than 20 years in New Jersey, New York, Germany and Georgia. As passionate for the Lord as she is for dance, started creative, spiritual dancing in 1997 with her local church, 2 children.

HAWAII: Pulelehua RuthMarie Quirk MLS
A lifetime member of SDG since 1997. Pres. Hawaii Chapter '00-'02, SDG Executive Board '99-'01, SDG Festival Chair '01, Webmaster SDG Hawaii Chapter '96-present, Archive committee '02-present, SDG resource committee '01-present. Librarian and Manager of Operation at Univ. of Hawaii Sinclair Library, full-time grad student in Ed Tech. Lives with 22 year-old-son and 83 year-old Mother in Honolulu.

Sacred Dance Guild Executive and Board-At-Large Ballot 2004

____ Yes ____ No I approve the proposed slate of officers for 2004-2005

I wish to write in the following names:

Name/Office _____

Name/Office _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Please mail ballot to: SDG Nominating Committee c/o 2268 Providence St., Falls Church, VA 22043

Questions?: Phone 703-560-0497

(cut here)

If you have not renewed your membership, please include it with this ballot.

IDAHO: write-in

IOWA: Dorian Byrd

BFA, MA from Julliard School, Univ. of Iowa; instructor of dance at Augustana College, IL; founder and dir. of *Imani! Dancers*. "I feel dance is a common language in the diverse body of Christ...just waiting to be discovered."

KANSAS: (see Missouri)

KENTUCKY: Sally Rothenburger

Director of dance-Sacred Heart Model School; director Ballet Arts Studio; past director of liturgical dance group at Epiphany Catholic Community. Widow, mother of 4, and enjoys her grandchildren.

LOUISIANA: Betty Wooddy

Co-founder and co-director of *Alleluia Dance Ensemble*, an ecumenical liturgical dance group in Baton Rouge; has led movement workshops since 1983; married, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren.

MAINE: JoyBeth Lufty-Balzer

Rev. Dr. JoyBeth has been dancing her faith and healing all her life. As a Dr. of Ministry in Spirituality, an interfaith nondenominational minister, published author of three books on Spirituality, an international teacher, she finds continual joy in teaching Body Prayer and Soul Dancing, based on the 4 Processes of Creation Spirituality: Connecting, Cleansing, CoCreating, and Celebrating.

MASSACHUSETTS: write-in

MICHIGAN: Yulonda Townsel

Involved in liturgical dance since 1989; teaches liturgical classes at Community College; launched Unity Praisefest Concert '99 with 56 dancers from group at Faith Hope Love Int. Christian Center.

MINNESOTA: L. Salima Rael

For 30 years she has participated in Dances of Universal Peace and has been a leader for 20. Interested in spiritual choreography. Participant in the Art of Peace Festival in Duluth.

MISSISSIPPI: Sylvia Blackwell

B.F.A. in Dance - Univ. of So Miss. MDiv from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky. Ordained clergy of UMC Mississippi Conference for 17 years. Recent co-owner of The Pilates Place of Mississippi, LLC and is currently on leave from the UMC to spend more time with family.

MISSOURI: Sheila M. Chibnall-Treptow

Teacher, choreographer and soloist. Liturgical Dance Coordinator for national conference of

Dominican Sisters in St. Louis; annual Advent program at The Cathedral; teaches At Risk inter-city middle school girls a liturgical dance for each season.

MONTANA: write-in

NEBRASKA: write-in

NEVADA: write-in

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Vivian Nicholl

Chair of SDG Festival 2002; daughter of SDG Archivist Mary Jane Wolbers; past President and Chapter Representative, Constitution Chapter; two daughters.

NEW JERSEY: Sylvia Bryant

BS - Tuskegee; Masters - Vanderbilt; studied extensively at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre; directed dance programs at Fisk University and Philander Smith College; work based on Martha Graham technique; participated in sacred dance presentation at Wesley Chapel in London, '99; published *Dancing Through the Christian Calendar*.

NEW MEXICO: (see Arizona)

NORTH CAROLINA: Diane Tucker

Diane is longtime SDG member and a full time student at Pacific School of Religion. There she has shared her experience of traveling in China and feeling God's love returned with many happy memories of dancing in parks with Chinese people.

NORTH DAKOTA: write-in

OKLAHOMA: Georgeana Rainwater

Teacher, choreographer- coordinator National Dance Week, since 1968; Director/choreographer "Faith in Motion" Broken Arrow Christian Church; workshop leader.

OREGON/SOUTH WASHINGTON

(**Columbia-Willamette**): Sharon Miller
Choreographer, dancer, dance teacher and certified labyrinth facilitator. She was artistic Director of Power Dance Company for 13 years.

RHODE ISLAND: (see Massachusetts)

SOUTH CAROLINA: write-in

SOUTH DAKOTA: write-in

TENNESSEE: Wendy Behr

MEd, MA, LCSW; solo and group performer since 1977; studied and performed with Carla DeSola and Anna Halprin; founder and artistic director of *Spirit-in-Motion Sacred Dance Troupe*;

workshop leader; SDG Festival '97 Faculty. Married with two children.

TEXAS: Sr. Martha Ann Kirk

Professor Religious Studies - Univ. of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio; Dir. of outreach program of ecumenical and international presentations focusing on issues of justice and peace; Th.D. - Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley; author of several books including *Dancing with Creation*; Mexican and Native American Dance in Christian Worship and Education.

UTAH: write-in

VERMONT: Tanya Cimonetti

Started the Sacred Dance Ensemble at St. Michael's College, (VT) in 1991, where she taught dance. Retired in '00, but continues to direct the Ensemble. Danced professionally with modern dance company in NYC in the late '70s. Teacher of ballet, modern and creative dance for over 30 years. Attended three SDG Festivals; chair of the scholarship committee for Festival '02 in NH.

WASHINGTON: write-in

WYOMING: write-in

CANADA (Ontario Region): Ruth Richardson

Palliative Care Nurse/educator; liturgical dance groups at local, presbytery and conference level of the U. Church of Canada; dance ministry, Bells Corners U. Church; Festival 2000 Co-chair.

CANADA (Western): write-in

TAIWAN: write-in

INTERNATIONAL: Deborah Bethell, CAN

SDG member since '96. Danced as a child at Winnipeg Ballet School and modern in Montreal. Choreographed movement and spirituality in 1970's into liturgical worship. Presented and led authentic movement and prayer pieces and labyrinth with husband Richard; also in worship services monthly. Fall '01 and Spring '02 workshop on movement and prayer. Three children; family very supportive of dance activities.

CHAPTERS

CONSTITUTION CHAPTER: E. PA, DE, S. NJ

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER: CO

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEW YORK, SW CONN. CHAPTER

LAKESHORE CHAPTER: IN, IL, WI

OH-PENN CHAPTER: OH, W. PA

POTOMAC CHAPTER: DC, MD, VA, W.VA.

CANADIAN NATIONAL CAPITAL

CHAPTER: Eastern Canada

SACRED DANCE GUILD PROFILES

Diane Tucker

Diane Tucker has a studio in the back of her home in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, which has been blessed and consecrated to Jesus Christ. The gathering was Ecumenical, and Father John Zelner gave the homily before communion.

Diane has taught Tai Chi Ch'uan to adults, ballroom dancing with her husband, Tom, and modern dance in this space. She also wrote and illustrated about 15 stories for children, one of which, *Petambi's Story*, was published last November.

She was given a generous gift by Sybil Shearer at Christmas in response to a series of dances she danced to grieve the death of her sister, Polly. In response Diane choreographed "Wondrous Love," to Stabat Mater by Schubert, and gave it to honor her teacher and send love to her.

Diane was fortunate to travel to the University of North Carolina at Asheville last fall and teach the dance to advanced dance students under supervision of Connie Schraeder. With Connie's help and imaginative input, the dance was performed in Asheville in a concert to raise money for food for the homeless. Connie said she felt it was the best dance on the concert because it "created community." It was based on the 17th Chapter of John's gospel.

A full-time student at the Pacific School of Religion, Diane has shared her experience of traveling in China and feeling God's love returned with many happy memories of dancing in parks with Chinese people. She hopes that her studies will enable her to bring her studio into a great fullness, thinking of the peach tree in August, abundantly overflowing with fruit.

Exchanges

The Sacred Dance Guild is exchanging Newsletters and Journals with the following international members of the World Dance Alliance:

Congress on Research in Dance (CORD)
dance and the Child International (daCI)

Dance Notation Bureau
International Council of Kinetography
Laban (ICKL)

International Council for Traditional Music, Ethnochoreology

Imperial Society of Teachers in Dancing
International Organization of Transition
for Professional Dancers

International Dance Committee of ITI/
UNESCO

Laban Institute for Movement Studies,
Laban/Bartenieff Institute

Society of Dance History Scholars

WDA Americas

WDA Asia Pacific

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From the Sacred Dance Guild Website

What is Sacred Dance...

Margaret Taylor-Doane, a student of Ruth St. Denis, has been one of the leaders in bringing dance back into worship. The Guild believes that sacred dance is a catalyst for spiritual growth and change through the integration of mind, body, and spirit. Through the Guild's workshops and other events, dancers and nondancers alike share the opportunity to experience movement as worship, prayer, healing, and meditation; as an agent of change; and as a message of peace. The movements in these sacred dances are not geared to any specific dance style or particular body techniques. Instead, they grow out of the dancer's inner motivation, which allows the revelation of the spirit through the body.

The goal of sacred dance is the integration of worship—whether as part of an established or traditional religious practice or as an individual's own private spiritual expression—by bringing forth and recognizing our own inner wisdom. It is tuning in to that “still quiet voice,” flowing with the laws of harmony and beauty, honoring the body's wisdom, uniting the physical and the spiritual, the spirit and the mind. The self-generated ritual possible through dance may give fresh expression to prayer and mysticism when it is experienced through the aid of the arts, following the long tradition of worshippers we now know about who have gone before.

Now Let Us Dance

Ritual expression is bringing forth and recognizing our own inner wisdom. It is tuning in to that “still quiet voice,” flowing with the laws of harmony and beauty, honoring the body's wisdom, uniting the physical and the spiritual, the spirit and the mind. The self-generated ritual possible through dance may give fresh expression to prayer and mysticism when it is experienced through the aid of the arts, following the long tradition of worshippers we now know about who have gone before. This we have come to recognize as the sustaining force in our lives. Movement is the universal language which integrates us, speaks across cultures, and transcends

the spoken word to manifest the spirit. “To move is human....to dance is divine.”

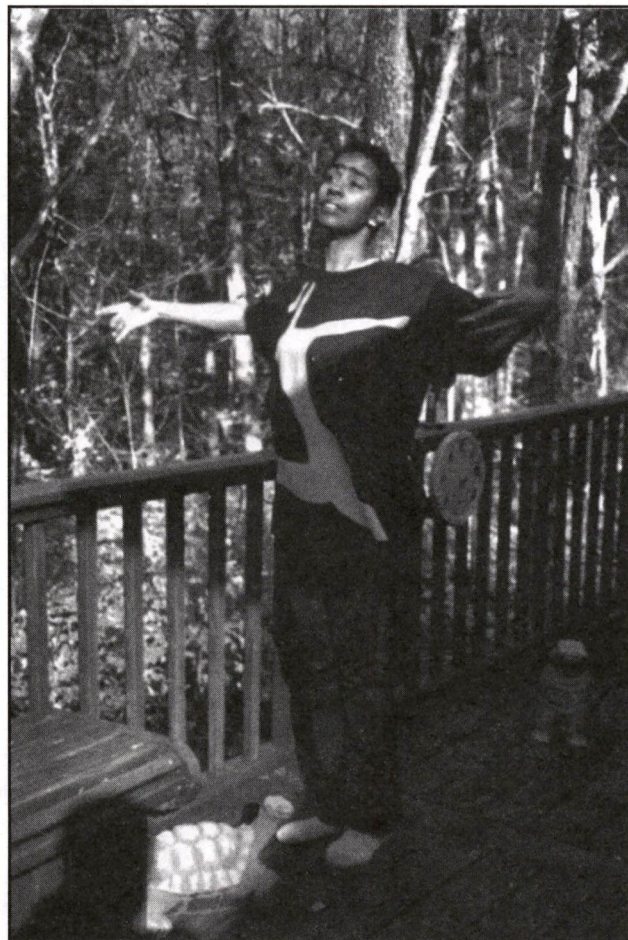
Kat Pettycrew, Vice-President of SDG says:

Sacred dance, for me, is a way to articulate what I cannot say in words, whether it's prayer, praise, or supplication. I'm not a professional mover either; I have very little experience with dance of any type. But if I let the Spirit move me, I can communicate with the One Power, and sometimes share with others. And for me, sacred dance is also a mission, hopefully sharing my faith with others who might not hear words. If I let the Power spread out with my movements, it would touch someone, somewhere, at the right time. I'm not sure I'd care to define sacred dance any more than I would care to define religion or faith.

Connie Tyler, Membership Director and Webmaster, says:

I think it's important to remember that the Sacred Dance Guild, while being an important organization for people who are involved in liturgical dance in Christian settings, is not only an organization for people who are involved in liturgical dance. We have Jewish dancers, participants in Dances of Universal Peace, people who do Yoga dance, Buddhist dance, the traditional temple dances of both Northern and Southern India. There are lots of members who are involved in dance as personal prayer and spiritual growth who never dance in a liturgical setting. There are Sacred Dances that are done as performances outside of religious settings.

What is important is what is in the heart and the soul of the dancer, the connection to the divine.



**Tamara
Mingo
Dancing in
the Alabama
Sun
November
2003**

MEMOS FROM THE MINUTES

Copies of Reports filed at Board Meetings are available to members by request to the Recording Secretary. (Email: EllenPeter@cs.com, or phone: 610-649-2526.)

Executive Board Meeting, November 14-15, 2003, Huntsville, Alabama

Board Members Present: Karen Josephson, President; Ellen Roberts Young, Recording Secretary; Connie Tyler, Membership Director; Rosalie Branigan, Program Director; Merle Wade, Chapters and Regions Director; Wendy Morrell, Public Relations Director; Tamara Mingo, Director at Large, proxy for Toni Intravaia (transferred from Joann Flanigan, who served as hostess.)

Friday, November 14, 2003

President Karen Josephson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with a ritual from Kara Esposito Miller via Betsy O'Neill, "Peace before us . . ."

Minutes of the previous meeting, July 17, 2003, had been approved by email vote on September 9, 2003.

After checking in around the circle, the President added two items to her report: she has called the people assigned to her by the Chapters and Regions Director, and she has appointed Kat Pettycrew as Interim Resource Director. Merle Wade moved, Rosalie Branigan seconded, **that the Reports of the Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Director, Program Director, Chapter and Regions Director, Public Relations Director and Development Director be accepted as distributed, and that the President's Report be accepted as revised. Carried.**

Treasurer's Report

The QuickBooks reports prepared by Bookkeeper Sue Johnson and sent to the Board meeting by Treasurer Rick Kesler were reviewed. There were questions that could not be answered by anyone present. Acceptance was tabled until questions could be answered. The Board came to consensus that if the Treasurer cannot be at meetings, the bookkeeper, as paid staff, should be asked to attend.

Rosalie Branigan moved, Merle Wade seconded, **that Rick Kesler's name be added to the investment accounts (Vanguard, Wellesley Income Fund and GNMA). Carried.**

Strategic Planning Process

Supplemental language to Mission statement:

Merle reported that she and Lucy Knopf had considered the supplemental language developed in the Strategic Planning meeting and decided that it is good as it stands. Wendy and Connie expressed reservations about "improve its quality." After discussion, Merle Wade moved, Connie

Tyler seconded, **that the second bullet point under Education shall read: "to encourage people to learn and enhance the various forms of sacred dance" Carried.** Wendy Morrell was instructed to communicate this change to the rest of the Strategic Planning participants.

Vision Statement

Wendy Morrell led discussion of Michele White's points about the Vision Statement. There is a lot of support for the earlier form of Vision Statement which Michele is suggesting we return to. The Board could not come to consensus on this. All agreed that semantics are difficult, and agreed to keep the issue in mind as the process continues.

Strategic Planning Teams

Wendy Morrell reported that the letter to possible participants had gone out, and began going over the list of respondents. She noted that only the Governance Team was up and running.

Ellen Young presented the report from the Governance Team. She moved, Connie Tyler seconded, **that the report of the Governance Team be accepted. Carried.** The Board further accepted the first request of the Team by consensus, that there be no attempt to fill vacant Director at Large positions. Both Merle and Connie expressed a need to continue seeking Regional Directors; the Team request to let this go was not accepted.

The Governance Team request that the Board consider funding for the Strategic Planning Teams led to discussion and the decision to allow up to \$200 per team for this work. The understanding is that there is \$1,000 remaining in the \$3,000 set aside from MEF funds for this purpose in April, 2002. The treasurer was not present to confirm this.

Wendy continued with the other teams. At this point the Education/Program team is the only one with enough people: Sylvia Bryant, who has agreed to convene, Betty Woody, Joceile Nordwall and Daphne Lowell. In the absence of enough people to fill a Resources team, it was proposed that this team be folded into Education/Program. At this point Kat Pettycrew is the only one in this unit. Peggy Hoffman has agreed to serve on, but not chair, the Finance Team. Michele White is also interested. It is not clear what happens next with this group.

People who had expressed general interest were considered for various team assignments. Wendy will follow up with contacting and placing them. Connie Tyler suggested advertising for more participants via website, elists and Journal but withdrew the idea because of timing issues. Wendy Morrell and Ellen Young will prepare an article for the Journal, using the Governance Team as an example.

Wendy Morrell would like to serve as a Monitor. No other candidates were suggested for this oversight role.

Teams were urged to share their ideas in progress via the elists.

Saturday, November 15, 2003

The meeting was called back to order at 8:50 a.m. after the group danced "Father We Adore You" around Joann's house. Karen Josephson shared a note from Mary Jane Wolbers thanking the Guild for flowers after her surgery.

Deborah Mauldin-Halloway, Alabama Regional Director, attended for part of the morning, but did not vote.

Festivals

2003: Rosalie Branigan reported that Festival 2003 was a good and successful Festival. She suggested the Board take the report in the *Journal* as an interim report. There is still a lot of mop-up to do. The Treasurer's report indicates that the seed money has been repaid. The attendance list has been sent to Connie. Rosalie will follow up with Stella and request specifics and full report by the next Board Meeting.

Connie Tyler moved, Merle Wade seconded, **that future Festival organizers be required to use the online database for registration. Carried.**

Several other recommendations came from the discussion: that a policy be established to require a three-month interim report; that the Festival Handbook needs to include a section on mop-up; and that the silent auction be removed from the Festival responsibilities and come under the oversight of the Scholarship Committee.

2005: Karen Josephson reviewed the Festival 2005 committee's report and circulated the draft of their presenter application form to the Board. Rosalie Branigan moved, Connie Tyler seconded, **that the Board accept the 2005 Festival committee's report, embrace the theme, and congratulate the committee on a good start. Carried.** After review of the presenter form it was approved by consensus with the request that it be adapted to allow for email submissions.

2008 (50th Anniversary): Karen reported that Elaine Sisler now has what she needs to go to Jacob's Pillow, and see whether a Festival there can be arranged. Karen has advised Elaine to be open to dates earlier or later than our usual schedule, since Jacob's Pillow has a full summer schedule of its own.

2004 Mini-Festivals: Merle Wade added to the list in her Director's Report several projects in the works: Potomac/Constitution have a probable site and date for July 16-18; Diane Tucker in North Carolina, hopes to do something on 9/11/2004; Judith Reichsmann, also in North Carolina,

MEMOS FROM THE MINUTES

has been encouraged to join in with her; Bob VerEecke in Massachusetts would like to develop something in conjunction with his own two-week program. Merle Wade moved, Rosalie Branigan seconded, **that these additions be accepted as part of her Chapters and Regions Director's report.** Carried.

Merle counts as solid (though only Louisiana has its proposal in): Louisiana, Alabama, Lakeshore, Potomac/Constitution, National Capitol (Ottawa), Northern California and Northern New Jersey. The Board affirmed Merle's decision to set a final proposal date of December 31, 2003, for Festival committees to qualify for seed money.

The possibility of a tee shirt for all mini-festivals was raised and dropped. After discussion about festival logos, Wendy Morrell moved, Merle Wade seconded, **that the SDG Logo is to be used as the Mini-Festival logo on all publicity.** Carried.

Ellen Young presented the proposal on scholarships from her discussion with June Hasser, 2004 Scholarship Committee chair. Ellen Young moved, Rosalie Branigan seconded, **that money from our Festival Scholarship sources be made available to Mini-Festival committees in the amount of \$150 each to use for scholarships. Each committee may establish its own process for granting this money with the restriction that only those who have never been to an International Festival are eligible. Use of these funds is to be included in the committee's final report.** Carried.

2004 Annual Membership Meeting

After review of the potential Mini-Festival meetings in June and July, 2004, Wendy Morrell moved, Rosalie Branigan seconded, **that the 2004 Annual Meeting be held at the Constitution/Potomac Mini-Festival, whose dates appear to most closely fit the usual schedule.** Carried.

Appeal Letter

Discussion of the appeal letter led to several suggestions for change, which Wendy agreed to enter into her copy. Rosalie Branigan moved, Ellen Young seconded, **that the return device should be a separate element on card stock.** Carried. Ellen and Wendy offered to help prepare this if needed. Other suggestions were made: that the appeal letter be put on the website and in the *Journal*; that next year an envelope also be enclosed; that Kathryn make an effort to find a big, bright stamp to call attention to the mailing. Wendy later brought the letter back for review. Connie Tyler moved, Rosalie Branigan seconded, **that the appeal letter be accepted as revised.** Carried.

Chapter and Regions Grant Request Guidelines

The committee appointed (Rosalie, Kathryn and Merle) has not acted. Rosalie noted that she does not think she should be on this committee. Rosalie Branigan moved, Connie Tyler seconded, **that Kathryn Mihelick and Merle Wade should put together a sheet of requirements for the Chapters and Regions who make grant applications using our tax i.d. number by the end of the year and circulate it to the Board.** Carried.

Affiliations

There was no report from Rebecca Wright Phillips concerning our joining the North American Interfaith Network. She has indicated there are no other likely groups to consider at this point. Joining NAIN was tabled by consensus until further information is received.

Journal

Karen shared her email to Toni regarding some unfortunate changes in her letter. Rosalie Branigan moved, Connie Tyler seconded, **that the Journal must be approved by the SDG President before it goes to the printer.** Carried. After further discussion about ways to get more people involved and to have broader input to the *Journal*, Connie Tyler moved, Rosalie Branigan seconded **that, in response to the survey, an editorial committee shall be formed to be a clearing house for the Journal, to solicit articles in relation to the broader needs of the membership, and to further the Strategic Planning goals in relation to the Journal; the terms of reference for this committee to be established by the Board by the end of December, 2003.** Carried. Wendy will draft the terms of reference (job description). Rosalie noted that the committee's tasks could include seeking ads.

Karen raised the question whether the title "Rev." should be used when other titles are not. Pros and cons of this were discussed, with consensus being that no titles should be used in the list of officers and directors, but full titles should be used in listing authors of articles.

Membership

No action was needed on late renewals. After discussion, Connie Tyler moved, Merle Wade seconded, **that membership cards will no longer be created; they will be replaced by an electronic renewal confirmation form, to be mailed when email is not available.** Carried.

Connie Tyler noted that we now have 12 groups. Connie Tyler moved, Ellen Young seconded, **that her list of benefits for members of groups emailed to the Board be accepted as practice.** Carried.

Web guidelines

General policies on who can link websites, or do them under SDG umbrella are still to be created. For the present, Connie will put a disclaimer on the web links page indicating that SDG does not approve the content of linked sites.

Public Relations

Wendy Morrell reviewed suggestions from her report. She particularly urges everyone to spread brochures - they should be used up by summer. She also recommends a packet for Chapter and Region people. Rosalie asked whether we can have a downloadable brochure. Wendy agreed to work on this.

Insurance and Waiver Forms

Rosalie Branigan agreed to call the Ohio Arts Council and/or work with Carla to try to clarify our liabilities and how to address them. The Board assured her that her telephone charges could be reimbursed.

New Business

Capital Campaign: In connection with fundraising, Karen Josephson suggested that it may be time for the Guild to consider a Capital Campaign. Others agreed that the 50th anniversary (2008) is an appropriate occasion.

Nominations: Karen reported that we have many openings on the Board to fill this year: Resource Director, Membership, Program, Vice President and possibly Treasurer. Connie Tyler has created a job description for the Resources Director which she will send out to Board members. Connie is willing to continue as a co-Membership Director if someone can be found to work with her. Karen is interested in becoming Program Director to see the Connecticut group through Festival 2005. The Board brainstormed possible names for the various openings. Rosalie Branigan called attention to a flaw in the nominations process, in that no one consulted her as outgoing Regional Director about who might replace her.

Job Board: The Board by consensus authorized Connie Tyler to try out a Job Board on the website. Anyone could offer jobs, only members could seek them. There would be strongly worded disclaimers.

The next meeting of the SDG Executive Board was set for April 17-18, 2004 in Connecticut.

Joann Flanigan was thanked with a round of applause for her generous hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Roberts Young,
Recording Secretary

Chapters and Regions News

A Newsletter from Chapters and Regions Director, P. Merle Wade

Lest We Forget....

The seeds of the language of faith and celebration that we spread along our dance journey via workshops, concerts and mini-festivals can take root and grow where we least expect them. We never know if or when somebody notices something we say, an example we set, or how our small acts of kindness make a positive impact or influences a new dance to sprout up. We do know that the ground is fertile and that we should continue to sow seeds of dance today and everyday that we are able.

The 2003-2004 SDG year has already presented many stages, changes and choices in our inner workings and in our dances, and as we embrace in a struggle with each of these, there is the constant knowledge that a renewal and a rebirth bring clarity to our visions and stimulate resounding rejoicing throughout our communities.

Each of our chapters and regions is unique. We vary in temperament, race, and social background. Yet, even in our uniqueness, the source of our gifts is the same. We are granted our individual equipment and we are gifted for the mutual blessing of helping each other and inspiring others to celebrate dancing as a language of faith. Indeed, in our sharing, we learn from one another and we give support to one another. The strength of our friendships helps to mold us as an organization.

Leadership as Chapter Representatives and Regional Directors calls us to accountability. We should be the listeners, serve our communities through dance, and encourage and guide those who want to learn and grow in their personal spiritualities. We should deliberately establish fruitful relationships and in so doing risk new areas of struggles, longings and dreams. We give and we receive. Chapter and region members may meet monthly, or once a year; the amount of time is not as important as the

quality of our ministry in dance. Whatever the case may be, our mutual belief in dance as a language of faith and celebration shapes us and most frequently changes the direction of our lives and those we touch. As we gently move into the beauty of this floriferous season, consider where and how you can include others in your spiritual dance. Trust in your ability to lead others to experience the joy, freedom, and peace we have in the dance!

More than just a footnote

In the spirit of saluting those who hopped aboard the campaign for local empowerment by taking the mini-festivals 2004 dream into reality, the SDG executive board acknowledges the overwhelming enthusiasm and stellar commitment of the following chapters and regions:

Louisiana Region - 3/12 - 3/14/04
OH-PENN Chapter - 3/26 - 3/27/04
National Canadian Chapter - 4/23 - 4/24/04
Alabama Region - 4/30 - 5/2/04
Lakeshore Chapter - 6/25 - 6/27/04
Potomac/Constitution Chapters - 7/16 - 7/18/04
Rocky Mountain Chapter - 7/21 - 7/22/04
Northern California Chapter
10/22 - 10/24/04
Northern New Jersey Region
11/5 - 11/7/04

Has it made a "Difference"?

The complete details describing the magnificence of the Louisiana Region's mini-festival, *"Moving Closer to God - Sacred Dance as Prayer,"* held in Baton Rouge and the OH-PENN Chapter's mini-festival, *"Nurturing Body and Soul - Creative Renewal,"* held at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Villa Maria, PA could fill reams of paper. Suffice it to say that the more than 100 dancers and community enthusiasts who participated in these mini-festivals expressed an enhanced connectedness and communication with God and experienced worship to the fullest, fulfilling their entire bodies.

The mini-festivals attracted both local and distant registrants. New friendships were made and old ones strengthened. Without a doubt, mini-festivals 2004 will have an enduring influence on our communities and within our membership!

In the meantime, what's been happening?

We regularly receive news via the web and post about the many exciting activities and events that you sponsor. I wish that I could attend every single workshop but I must content myself by reading the required summary reports. I know that there must be many more dance happenings that you have not taken the time to write about. Please don't save your news until you file the ANNUAL REPORTS which are due June, 2004.

Kudos to the following for keeping us informed:

Alabama Region
Arizona/New Mexico Region
Connecticut/Massachusetts/
Rhode Island Region
Florida Region
International Region
Louisiana Region
North Carolina Region
Northern New Jersey Region
Ontario Region
Tennessee Region
Constitution Chapter
Hawaii Chapter
Lakeshore Chapter
National Canadian Chapter
New York/SW Connecticut Chapter
Northern California Chapter
OH-PENN Chapter
Potomac Chapter

And speaking of keeping us informed; several of you have some unfinished business!

Dues must be kept current.

Bios and resumes should be up-dated.

Your file should contain a picture, preferably a 5x7, but I'll take whatever you send.

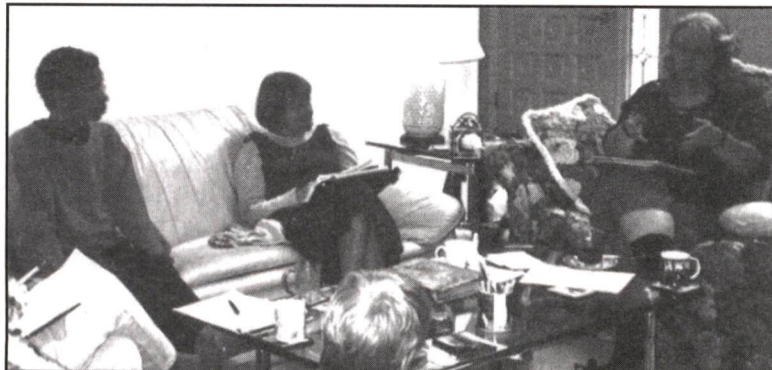
Changes in addresses, phone, fax and emails should be addressed to both the membership director and ME.

Send in your workshop summary forms and,

ANNUAL ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL REPORT DEADLINE IS JULY 15, 2004. Try to mail it to me sometime in June.

Keeping the Connection!

The members of the executive board have tried to make a personal contact with you via phone. Did you receive a call? Did you exchange a bit of gossip and love? Look for another call one day soon. We love talking to you. AND, LET ME HEAR FROM YOU. WHAT ARE YOUR PROBLEMS and/or CONCERNS?



Executive Board Meeting, November 2003 - Tamara Mingo, Karen Josephson and Connie Tyler.

SDG CHAPTER NEWS

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Lakeshore Chapter's "Dancing the Light" Festival will take place at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN on June 25-27, 2004. The program includes early morning QiGong with Margaret Burk or Body Based Prayer with Marilyn Dicola. Morning and Afternoon workshops include: Praise in Stepping with Tracy and Tiana Williams; Movement Inspired by Sacred Texts with Susan Mendenhall; Literal/Non-literal Movement in Sacred Dance with Indi Dieckgrafe; Dancing with Mysteries of Light with Michele White and Preparing to Dance with Deena Sherman. For more information contact Deena Sherman at 630-892-1988 or deenabess@yahoo.com or visit the Sacred Dance Guild website at www.sacreddanceguild.org.

NEW YORK/SW CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

The February Workshop was well attended with leader Carole Forman returning to give a full workshop. "Dancing Our Way Back to the Garden of Eden" was about reaching back to purity and innocence, away from our everyday cluttered lives. It proved to be a very creative experience.

The regular chapter workshop will take place on Sunday, May 2, from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Stephens of Hungary Church. The leaders will be Carolee Bongiorno, Ann Pomeroy, Judith Rose and Carol Sundquist, who will also do the warm-up. The cost is \$8 and \$15 depending on membership and when the dues were paid. For more information call Ann Pomeroy at 845-363-1977, e-mail daveann2@aol.com or Betsy O'Neill at 212-535-4235.

CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAPTER

At Festival 2003 in California, Nobuko Miyamoto taught the chapter members a dance called "I Dream a

Garden." The chapter presented the "I Dream a Garden" Devotion through Motion on Sunday, April 18 at the Bells Corners United Church.

POTOMAC CHAPTER

Members Sue Johnson and Constance Bibb were instrumental in hosting an Interplay workshop with Chicago Leader Jane Siarny on Sunday, January 18, 2004. The theme of the workshop was "Playing Your Vision for the New Year!"

Member Cyndy Taylor-Ward was featured in the *Washington Post* on Saturday, January 24, 2004 in an article about her church, St. Martin's Catholic Church in the District's Shaw neighborhood. The pastor, Father Mark Kelly, is spreading the good word by bringing the Gospel Choir and members of the St. Martin's dance troupe to other parishes, such as Little Flower Church in Bethesda, MD.

Fr. Bob VerEecke, S.J. was in the area on February 7, 2004 and presented a session on Liturgical Dance and the Prayer of the Community in conjunction with the East Coast Conference for Religious Education, 32nd Annual EEC. Members were welcome to participate in this opportunity to see the possibilities of how our bodies are the instruments of prayer that link the community into a unified spirit.

Another Interplay workshop was held in our region on February 20-21, 2004, again thanks to members Sue Johnson and Constance Bibb. Ginny Going and Tom Henderson presented "Money and Grace;" an Interplay Retreat. In this workshop, Ginny and Tom explored the "economics of grace" as an alternative to market economies and looked at what truly makes for abundant living.

Also on Saturday, February 21, member Sharon Werth led a session

entitled "Liturgical Dance...Come and let your body be the messenger!" This was part of the Third Annual Music and Worship Arts Festival held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, MD.

Upcoming events are our April 24 Workshop "Dancing the Psalms" which will be led by member Kathryn Sparks and will be held at Wesley Theological Seminary.

Our mini-Festival will be July 16-18, 2004: "Let's Dance!" Mid-Atlantic Sacred Dance Festival. This event is cosponsored by the Potomac chapter and the Constitution Chapter and will be held at the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. The weekend festival will include an opening program Friday evening, a full day of workshops on Saturday, a Saturday evening concert, and closing workshop on Sunday. The planning committee, led by members Sue Johnson and Phyllis Stonebrook, is hard at work putting the program together. Contact Sue Johnson at 703-641-5963 or suesyj@cox.net. Check the website for all the details..

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

The Alleluia Dance Theater presented "Praise God in the Dance: I am Blessed" on March 12-14 at the La Casa de Maria Retreat Center in Santa Barbara.

RECIPROCAL AFFILIATIONS

The Sacred Dance Guild has collegial status with the following organizations: This is a reciprocal agreement whereby members of the Guild may attend activities of these organizations at the same fee their own members pay (proof of SDG membership is required). Members of these organizations may attend Guild activities in the same way.

American Dance Guild, P. O. Box 2006, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021 (212) 932-2789.

International Liturgical Dance Association (ILDA) of NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians), 3215 Bellacre Court, Cincinnati, OH 45248-5005 (513) 451-6746.

National Dance Association, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091 (703) 476-3436.

Advertise in the SDG Journal

Ad per ONE (1) issue

One-half page.....\$100.00
One-quarter page.....60.00
One-eighth or business card.....40.00

Ad per THREE (3) issues

One-half page.....\$275.00
One-quarter page.....150.00
One-eighth or business card.....95.00

Classified Ads and Personals

1-10 words.....5.00
11-20 words.....8.00
21-30 words.....13.00
31-40 words.....17.00



Workshop participants at the Baton Rouge "Moving Closer to God - Sacred Dance as Prayer" weekend.



CALENDAR

(Continued from page 16)

June 25-27, 2004 - Lakeshore Chapter Mini-Festival at St. Mary College, Notre Dame Indiana. Contact: Deena Sherman, deenabess@yahoo.com, 630-892-1988.

June 24 - 27, 2004 - 21st Annual Symposium for Medical Problems of Musicians and Dancers, Aspen, CO. Contact: Mary Fletcher, 303-632-9255.

June 24 - 28, 2004 - The First International InterPlay Conference Changing the World!, Nashville, TN. Contact: 510-465-2979 or 510-814-9584.

June 26 - 28, 2004 - Sacred Dance for Healing with Betsey Beckman Wesley Dance Therapy Training in Canada, Calgary Alberta Canada. Contact: www.wesleydancetherapy.ca or call 403-249-0434.

June 30 - July 16, 2004 - Dance Therapy Theoretical Approaches & Improvisation for Dance Therapy, Wesley Dance Movement Therapy Training in Canada, Calgary Alberta Canada. Contact: www.wesleydancetherapy.ca or 403-249-0434.

July 11 - 18, 2004 - Worship Dance Intensive, Dramatic Truth School of the Arts, Kansas City, MO. Contact 816-795-0123, www.dramatictruth.org.

July 16-18, 2004 - Mini-Festival, Potomac and Constitution Chapters. Details to be announced.

July 19 - August 6, 2004 - Movement Interpretation for DMT 1 and Dance Therapy for Children & Adolescents, Wesley Dance Movement Therapy Training in Canada, Calgary Alberta Canada. Contact: www.wesleydancetherapy.ca or 403-249-0434.

July 26-August 6, 2004 - Massachusetts Region Mini-Festival, Boston College, Details to be announced.

August 1 - 6, 2004 - Northeastern Jurisdictional Fellowship Convocation, United Methodist, Genetti Hotel, Pine Street UMC, Williamsport, PA, Rosalie Branigan, Liturgical Dance Clinician. Classes for advanced and beginning dancers and for those working in dance with youth and children. Contact: Kerry Dietz, 302-731-9495, eumckerry@aol.com.

August 9-13, 2004 - Movement, Percussion, and Storytelling to Promote Intercultural harmony, Avodah Dance Ensemble, Steamboat Springs, CO. Contact: 201-659-7072, www.avodahdance.org.

August 9 - 14, 2004 - Movement Interpretation 2, Wesley Dance Movement Therapy Training in Canada, Calgary Alberta Canada. Contact: www.wesleydancetherapy.ca or 403-249-0434.
July 2005 - WDA Global Assembly, Toronto, Canada, acclaimed "the most multicultural center in the world."

Executive Board Meetings

Spring Meeting - April 16-18, 2004, New Haven, CT.
Summer Meeting - July 16 weekend.
Board-at-Large and Annual Meetings - July 16 weekend.

Sacred Dance Guild Web Site:
www.sacreddanceguild.org

SACRED DANCE ACTIVITIES

TENNESSEE

The Epiphany Dance Company performed a "Sacred Journey" A Celebration of Epiphany" On January 9, 2004 at the Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN. The Gallery Musicians were also featured.

CALENDAR

May 2, 2004 - Regular Chapter Workshop, NY/SW Conn. Chapter, ST. Stephen's of Hungary Church, NYC. Contact: Ann Pomeroy, 845-362-1977, davenann2@aol.com or Betsy O'Neill, 212-535-4235.

May 15-16, 2004 - Movement, Percussion, and Storytelling to Promote Intercultural Harmony, Avodah Dance Ensemble, Midtown Manhattan NYC, Contact: 201-659-7072, www.avodahdance.org.

May 21-22, 2004 - "Spring Sharing Celebration" Rocky Mountain Chapter, Ecumenical sacred/liturgical dance sharing festival, Iliff School of Theology, Denver Colorado. Silent auction to benefit the Connie Fisher Endowment for Sacred Dance and Sacred Dance Guild. Contact: Ann Blessin 303-377-9114 or Paula Lampe 303-969-0481.

May 31 - June 6, 2004 - "Dancing the Psalms" with Kathryn Sparks, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM. Featuring the power of movement and dance as prayer using favorite Psalms as the foundation. Contact 505-685-4333, ext. 139, www.ghost ranch.org.

June 6 -11, 2004 - Contemplative Dance. Experienced 12th Annual Week II, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. Faculty: Daphne Lowell and Alton Wasson. Contact: 413-268-

3294, info@contemplativedance.org, www.contemplativedance.org

June 7-11, 2004 - "Liturgical Dance: The Word Made Flesh" one-week intensive Course with The Reverend J. Bruce Stewart, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC. Contact: Sara Sheppard at 202-885-8688, or Ssheppard@wesleysem.edu or www.wesleysem.edu.

June 7-11, 2004 - United Methodist Texas Conference Choir Clinic, Lakeview Conference Center, Palestine, TX, Rosalie

Branigan, Liturgical Dance Clinician. Classes for Upper Elementary, Junior and Senior High School and Adults. Contact: Phil Hooper, John Wesley United Methodist Church, 5830 Bermuda Dunes, Houston, TX 77069, 281-444-2112.

June 20-25, 2004 - Contemplative Dance, Week I (Basic) 16th Annual Summer Intensive, Prerequisite for Year-Long Program, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. Faculty: Daphne Lowell and Alton Wasson. Contact: 413-268-3294, info@contemplativedance.org, www.contemplativedance.org

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You can apply for membership to the Sacred Dance Guild in three ways: 1) Complete the form and return with your membership dues. 2) Join online at our website, www.sacreddanceguild.org. 3) Email our Membership Director (see address below).

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____
Country/Zip/Postal Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Dues:	1 year Domestic/International Membership	\$35
	2 year Domestic/International Membership	\$62
	1 year Student/Senior (65+) Membership	\$25
	1 year Group Membership	\$82
	Life Membership	\$1,000

Please make checks payable to Sacred Dance Guild or charge your membership by providing the following information.

Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Amount Charged _____ Signature _____

Please return to Membership Director Connie Tyler, 2322 8th Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, connie@deephum.com



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